

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-4. (Cancelled)

Claim 5. (Previously Presented) The tampon according to Claim 13 wherein said depressions are arranged in a pattern.

Claim 6. (Previously Presented) The tampon according to Claim 5 wherein said pattern is selected from the group consisting of diagonal lines, straight lines, checkerboard and mixtures thereof.

Claim 7. (Previously Presented) The tampon according to Claim 13 wherein said depressions are evenly spaced.

Claim 8. (Cancelled)

Claim 9. (Previously Presented) The tampon according to Claim 13 wherein said protuberances are arranged in a pattern.

Claim 10. (Previously Presented) The tampon according to Claim 9 wherein said pattern is selected from the group consisting of diagonal lines, straight lines, checkerboard and mixtures thereof.

Claim 11. (Previously Presented) The tampon according to Claim 13 wherein said protuberances are evenly spaced.

Claim 12. (Cancelled)

Claim 13. (Currently Amended) A tampon for feminine hygiene comprising an insertion end, a withdrawal end, a length, a longitudinal axis, a radial axis, and an outer surface;
said tampon being comprised of compressed fibrous material;
wherein a measured portion of said outer surface of said insertion end comprises a first surface area and a measured portion of said outer surface of said withdrawal end comprises a second surface area, said second surface area lacking depressions and protuberances, wherein at least a portion of said first surface area comprises discretely spaced individual depressions having at least one shape, wherein said at least one shape is selected from the group consisting of ovals, circles, ~~trapezoids~~, cones, squares, ~~pentagons~~, ~~hexagons~~, ~~heptagons~~, ~~octagons~~, ~~nonagons~~, ~~decagons~~, ~~parallelograms~~, ~~rhombuses~~, ~~trapeziums~~, alphanumerices, animal shapes, trademarks, logos, foreign languages, kanji, ASCII, and mixtures thereof, wherein at least a portion of said first surface area further comprises protuberances.

Claims 14-17 (Cancelled)

Claim 18. (Previously Presented) The tampon according to Claim 13 wherein the fibrous material of said tampon has an essentially uniform density over a cross-section of the tampon.

Claim 19. (Previously Presented) The tampon according to Claim 13 wherein said tampon further comprises a core which is highly compressed.

Claim 20. (Previously Presented) The tampon according to Claim 13 wherein said withdrawal end further comprises a finger indent.